



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-08-92

Date: June 19, 1992

TO: All Employees

FROM: 429/Head, Risk Management Branch, SSQRD

SUBJECT: Surge Suppressor Failure, Model No. BPS VCN6-6

Recently failures of two of the subject devices have been reported to the Risk Management Branch. Each failure occurred when the surge suppressor was initially plugged into a wall receptacle. The design of the surge protector provides for an end cap construction at the power cord connection that is held in place with sheet metal screws. Apparently both failures were the result of a cross threaded sheet metal screw that had punctured the wiring insulation, grounding the live wire in front of the circuit breaker.

All surge suppressors (Model No. BPS VCN6-6) in the LaRC stock system have been evaluated and determined acceptable for service. Employees who may have the subject item in their possession, but who have **not yet put it into service**, are requested to have them checked for electrical continuity to assure that the case ground and power conductors are not shorted.

If you have questions regarding this Safety Release, contact Mr. J. M. Nichols at extension 43688.

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427/JV

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